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10/693,921	10/28/2003	Kazuhiro Hosotani	117630	3993

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EXAMINER	
CHENG, PETER L	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/693,921	HOSOTANI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	PETER L. CHENG	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *09 March 2009*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-8* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-8* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *12/5/2008*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on **3/9/2009** has been entered.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities; please note that page and line numbers refer to the *marked-up copy of the specification* filed on **3/9/2009**:

- There are some typographical and grammatical errors in the disclosure; **page 1, paragraph starting with** "While a large number of electronic devices …", **line 5 (**replace "to LAN" with "to a LAN"**);**

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 2 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Line 24:** per **claim 2, line 10**, it is assumed that applicant intended to cite **the storing unit** instead of **the storage unit**;

- **Line 27:** per **claim 2, line 15**, it is assumed that applicant intended to cite **and the identification information** instead of **and identification information**;

- **Line 32:** "**a configuration thereof**" is not clear; for example, "*thereof*" may refer to the **configuring unit** [in **line 30**]; however, it is assumed that it refers to the **second device**; if so, suggest replacing **a configuration thereof** with **a configuration of the second device**;

- **Lines 33 - 34:** for clarity, suggest replacing **when determined that the model information** with **when determined by the information processing apparatus that the model information**;

- **Line 35:** per **claim 2, line 10**, it is assumed that applicant intended to cite **the storing unit** instead of **the storage unit**;

- **Line 35:** "**a configuration thereof**" is not clear; for example, "*thereof*" may refer to the **configuring unit** [in **line 30**]; however, it is assumed that it refers to the **second device**; if so, suggest replacing **a configuration thereof** with **a configuration of the second device**;

- **Lines 35 - 36:** suggest replacing **with manual configuration** with **with a manual configuration**;

4. Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Line 3:** "**the configuration**" is not clear since it may refer to the *automatic configuration* [**claim 2, lines 32 - 33**] or the *manual configuration* [**claim 2, lines 35 - 36**]; in addition, the specification appears to only support the former, i.e., the *automatic configuration*;

- **Lines 3 - 4:** suggest replacing **the completion** with **a completion**;

- **Line 4:** "**the configuration**" is not clear since it may refer to the *automatic configuration* [**claim 2, lines 32 - 33**] or the *manual configuration* [**claim 2,**

lines 35 - 36]; in addition, the specification appears to only support the former, i.e., the *automatic configuration*;

5. Claim 6 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Line 20:** "**a previously stored model information thereof**" is not clear; for example, "*thereof*" may refer to the **determining unit** [in **line 18**]; however, it is assumed that it refers to the **second device**; if so, suggest replacing **a previously stored model information thereof** with **a previously stored model information of the second device**;

- **Line 21:** "**a configuration thereof**" is not clear; for example, "*thereof*" may refer to the **configuring unit** [in **line 21**]; however, it is assumed that it refers to the **second device**; if so, suggest replacing **a configuration thereof** with **a configuration of the second device**;

- **Line 24:** "**a configuration thereof**" is not clear; for example, "*thereof*" may refer to the **configuring unit** [in **line 21**]; however, it is assumed that it refers to the **second device**; if so, suggest replacing **a configuration thereof** with **a configuration of the second device**;

- **Line 25:** suggest replacing **with manual configuration** with **with a manual configuration**;

- **Line 26:** per **claim 6, lines 20** and **23 – 24**, it is assumed that Applicants intended to cite **the previously stored model information** instead of **any model information stored in the storing unit**;

6. Claim 7 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Line 28:** per **claim 7, line 15**, assume Applicant intended to cite **and <u>the</u> identification information** instead of **and identification information**;

- **Line 31:** per **claim 7, lines 16 – 19**, for clarity, suggest replacing **when a determination is made** with **when a determination <u>by the information processing apparatus</u> is made**;

7. Claim 8 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Line 2:** since a **computer *<u>system</u>*** is a collection of components, it is not clear which components *execute the process for configuring a plurality of devices*; suggest replacing **a computer system** with **an information processing apparatus**;

- **Line 14:** "**the information processing apparatus**" lacks antecedent basis; it is assumed that Applicants intended to cite **the computer system** [**claim 8,**

line 2]; alternatively, this objection would be remedied by implementing the suggestion made for **claim 8, line 2**;

- **Lines 15 - 16:** "**the information processing apparatus**" lacks antecedent basis; it is assumed that Applicants intended to cite **the computer system** [**claim 8, line 2**]; alternatively, this objection would be remedied by implementing the suggestion made for **claim 8, line 2**;

- **Lines 15 - 16:** as currently written, it is not clear how the **second device** can *determine whether or not the model information of the first device and the model information of the second device in the one or more packets coincide with each other* [**claim 8, lines 16 - 18**] since it is not clear in **claim 8, lines 4 – 6** whether the **second device** performs the *acquiring from a first device, model information of the first device*; in addition, it would appear that the *acquiring [of] one or more data packets from a second device* [**claim 8, line 10**] is performed by the *information processing apparatus* [**claim 8, line 14**]; therefore, it would appear that the *information processing apparatus* alone *determines whether or not the model information of the first device and the model information of the second device in the one or more packets coincide with each other* [**claim 8, lines 16 - 18**];

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

8. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

> Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The "computer readable medium storing a program" may be a medium that *propagates "via a line as a carrier wave"* [please see the as-filed specification, **page 30, lines 18 - 20**]. S*ignals* such as a *carrier wave* are non-statutory.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* **v.** *John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

11. Claims 1 - 4, 6, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **GOFFINET [US Patent 5,905,906]** in view of **HANSEN [US Patent Application 2003/0090704 A1]**, **MOTOYAMA [US Patent 7,359,965 B2]**, **O'TOOLE [US Patent 6,757,723 B1]**, and **well-known prior art**.

As for claim 1, GOFFINET teaches a device configuring method for configuring a plurality of devices of various kinds, including [[by]] a second device [e.g., printer **16a** shown in **Fig. 1**], [[and]] an information processing apparatus [**Fig. 1,** host computer **12**] which is connected to the devices via a communication network [**Fig. 1** LAN **15**], the method comprising:

acquiring from a first device

[Fig. 1 printer **13]**

both model information of the first device and identification information specific to the first device by the information processing apparatus

[GOFFINET teaches a method by which a host computer (**Fig. 1** host computer **12**) may "save the configuration information of a particular printer (*e.g., printer 13*)"; **col. 6, lines 47 - 48.** This is illustrated in **Fig. 4** as the "Quick Setup Save" procedure.

Within the printer controller (**Fig. 3**), the "Options Manager 37 is designed to be able to easily retrieve and store all such configuration variables for its particular model laser printer"; **col. 7, lines 5 – 7.**

Shown in **Fig. 4,** steps **102 (**Determine I.D. of Next OM Variable to be Read**)** through **110 (**At End of OM Table?**),** the Options Manager reads each OM variable shown in **Table #1** and transmits the corresponding value to the host computer where it is stored in a file.

From **Table #1,** the host computer acquires "model information" of a first device (e.g., OMMODELNAME, the model name) and "identification information" (e.g., OMSERIALNUM, the serial number);

other related "model information" could be obtained from Table #1 as well; for example, some "higher-end" models may have 3 paper input trays whereas, some "lower-end" models may just have one**];**

acquiring from the first device configuration information of the first device by the information processing apparatus

[Contained within **Table #1** are various configuration variables (i.e., "OM variables"); among these are, for example, **OMEMULATION** (default emulation),

OMPAPERSRC (default paper source), **OMOUTPUTCAP** (output drawer capacity), and **OMINPUTCAP** (input tray1 capacity)**];**

storing <u>in a storage unit</u> the acquired configuration information in a status correlated with both the model information and the identification information of the first device

[Fig. 4 "depicts a flow chart of the steps that the host computer (e.g., a host 12) must undergo to create a file at its own storage media (e.g., upon its own hard disk drive) so as to save the configuration information of a particular printer"; **col. 6, lines 44 – 47;** the storing of the acquired configuration information occurs in **Fig. 4** step **112** (close file in which printer settings are stored)**];**

acquiring one or more data packets from the second device, the one or more data packets containing both model information of the second device and identification information specific to the second device by the information processing apparatus,

the acquiring from the second device occurring automatically in response to the second device reaching a state in which the second device is both connected to the information processing apparatus and turned on;

automatically causing, in response to the acquiring from the second device, the information processing apparatus or the second device to determine whether or not the model information of the first device and the model information of the second device in the one or more data packets coincide with each other;

transmitting, when ~~determined~~ a determination is made that the model information of the first device and the model information of the second device coincide with each other, the stored configuration information of the first device from the information processing apparatus to the second device

[GOFFINET teaches that "under normal circumstances, it is preferred that such setup or configuration information for a particular printer [i.e., the "first device"] be utilized on *other printers* [i.e., the "second device"] *having the identical model number*"; **col. 15, lines 6 – 9.**

Fig. 6 illustrates the "Quick Setup Send" host computer procedure. Once a configuration setup file has been selected (**step 140**), a selection is made as to which printers will be configured (**step 142**). **Steps 144** through **152** retrieve configuration values stored in the saved setup file and transmit each value (along with its corresponding variable identification) to a second device (i.e., a selected

printer); specifically, the data packet for a "Set OM Variable" command has a format shown in **col. 15, line 29]**[[;]]

and configuring the second device in accordance with the transmitted configuration information

[Fig. 7 illustrates the "Set OM Variable" printer procedure. After the second device (i.e., a selected printer) receives the packet sent from the host computer, the printer controller's Options Manager reads the value of the OM variable (from the data packet) and stores it into memory; **col. 16, lines 32 – 35.**

"Configuring the second device" is achieved by storing the new OM variable values into memory**];**

and transmitting, when a determination is made that the model information of the second device does not coincide with any model information stored in the storage unit, information that configuration information is not present,

and entering, by the second device, after the transmission of information that configuration information is not present, into a manual configuration mode.

However, GOFFINET *does not specifically teach* a first set of limitations

acquiring one or more data packets from the second device, the one or more data packets containing both model information of the second device and identification information specific to the second device by the information processing apparatus

the acquiring from the second device occurring automatically in response to the second device reaching a state in which the second device is both connected to the information processing apparatus and turned on;

automatically causing, in response to the acquiring from the second device, the information processing apparatus or the second device to determine whether or not the model information of the first device and the model information of the second device in the one or more data packets coincide with each other

Furthermore, GOFFINET *does not specifically teach* a second set of limitations

transmitting, when a determination is made that the model information of the second device does not coincide with any model information stored in the storage unit, information that configuration information is not present,

and entering, by the second device, after the transmission of information that configuration information is not present, into a manual configuration mode.

Regarding the first set of limitations, GOFFINET teaches that once the model, identification and configuration information are acquired from the first device and are stored in a file (**Fig. 4** step **112**), "the file on the hard drive can be accessed and its contents sent to other printers on the LAN 15, thereby configuring such other printers very quickly and easily"; **col. 15, lines 3 – 6.**

As noted, GOFFINET teaches that "under normal circumstances, it is preferred that such setup or configuration information for a particular printer [i.e., the "first device"] be utilized on *other printers* [i.e., the "second device"] *having the identical model number*"; **col. 15, lines 6 – 9.**

GOFFINET teaches that a host computer can acquire both model information (e.g., OMMODELNAME) and identification information (e.g., OMSERIALNUM) by requesting a device to return the value associated with an "OM variable".

GOFFINET further teaches that such information is communicated to the host computer in one or more *packets*. With reference to **Fig. 5**, GOFFINET cites, "Once the variable

value has been determined, function block 130 will *build a packet that is to be transmitted back to the host 12*"; **col. 13, lines 65 – 67.**

That is, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to acquire both *model information* and *identification information* from a "second device" [e.g., printer **16a** shown in **Fig. 1**] in the same manner (using OM variables) as with the "first device" (i.e., printer **13**).

However, GOFFINET does not teach *automatically acquiring from the second device by the information processing apparatus one or more data packets which contain both model and identification information when the second device is connected to the information processing apparatus and is turned on*.

HANSEN teaches a method of automatically configuring a printing device. With reference to **Figs. 1** and **4**, HANSEN illustrates the automatic configuration of printing device **102** in which "the configuration process can be initiated by the printing device configuration module 316 of a computing device 108"; **page 3, paragraph 32, lines 3 – 6.** Although, the "printing device configuration module" **316** can be manually activated by "identifying the presence of a newly added printing device 102" [**page 3, paragraph 32, lines 8 - 11**], *in a manner similar as taught by GOFFINET*, HANSEN teaches that *the presence of a new printing device 102 "can be automatically detected* by the printing device configuration module 316" [**page 3, paragraph 33, lines 1 – 3**] by periodically

sending "response requests" to every device that is connected to module **316** [**page 3, paragraph 33, lines 4 - 6**]. *Alternatively, the* "*newly added printing device 102 can be configured to send out periodic notifications that identify its presence to other devices on the network 114, including the computing device 108*"; **page 3, paragraph 33, lines 11 – 15.**

That is, HANSEN teaches a method by which a newly added printing device (i.e., a "second device") automatically identifies its presence to the "printing device configuration module" **316** of a "computing device" **108** (i.e., an "information processing apparatus") *when the newly added device is connected to the information processing apparatus and is turned on*.

In response to this automatic identification, with reference to **Fig. 4**, HANSEN teaches that the "configuration module 316 can *automatically determine what type of device* the printing device 102 is, as indicated in block 404. *In terms of type, the module 316 can, for instance, determine whether the device is a printing device, the manufacturer of the printing device, the device model number, etc*"; **page 3, paragraph 34, lines 4 – 9.** "Alternatively, the information can be obtained by *querying the printing device 102 and receiving an appropriate response*"; **page 3, paragraph 34, lines 12 – 14.**

That is, HANSEN teaches *automatically acquiring from the second device by the information processing apparatus one or more data packets which contain both model*

and identification information when the second device is connected to the information processing apparatus and is turned on.

In addition, GOFFINET does not teach *automatically causing a determination by either the information processing apparatus or the second device of whether the model information of the first device coincides with the model information of the second device*.

HANSEN teaches that once the "printing device configuration module" **316** has acquired information relating to the type of device (e.g., manufacturer, device model number, etc.), module **316** "can determine what configuration applet 318 is to be downloaded to the printing device 102"; **page 3, paragraph 35, lines 1 – 3.**

That is, HANSEN teaches *automatically causing a determination by the information processing apparatus of whether the model information of the second device coincides with the model information of a known, recognized device*. HANSEN teaches that "the type of applet 318 downloaded to the printing device 102 may be device dependent where the nature of the configuration of the device depends upon the device's architecture"; **page 3, paragraph 35, lines 9 – 12.**

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of HANSEN with those of GOFFINET so that the information processing apparatus could *automatically configure* the second device by

automatically detecting the presence of the newly added second device, *automatically querying* the newly added second device for both model and identification information and *automatically determining* whether the newly added second device matched a known, recognized device (e.g., the first device).

The benefits of such automatic configuration would include both a reduction in configuration time and the elimination of potential errors that could be incurred by manually configuring a second device.

Regarding the second set of limitations, as noted, HANSEN teaches that once the "printing device configuration module" **316** has acquired information relating to the type of device (e.g., manufacturer, device model number, etc.), module **316** "can determine what configuration applet 318 is to be downloaded to the printing device 102"; **page 3, paragraph 35, lines 1 – 3.**

However, HANSEN, does not specifically teach what happens *when either the "printing device configuration module" **316** does not recognize the type of device (e.g., manufacturer, device model number, etc.), or the "printing device configuration module" **316** does not have an applicable configuration applet for the type of device.*

In either of these cases, MOTOYAMA teaches that "if the controlling device [*e.g., HANSEN's "printing device configuration module" **316***] does not recognize the specific

model of the interfacing device [*e.g., HANSEN's "printing device"* ***102***], automatic configuration is not possible"; **col. 1, lines 63 – 65.**

That is, the "printing device" would necessarily require some type of manual configuration.

Such *manual configuration* is taught by GOFFINET ("The laser printer setup can originate via manual procedure by a user manipulating the *operator panel directly* at a particular laser printer"; **col. 11, lines 57 – 59**).

O'TOOLE, whose invention is directed towards a "network appliance [which] is capable of remote booting and obtaining its configuration information from a source located far away"; **abstract, lines 1 – 3**, also teaches that a printer or photocopying machine can be manually configured "through the use of an LCD panel and buttons. For example, …, when [either a printer or photocopying machine] is booted up, [it] might display a small message on a screen saying that the user must proceed through menus and select certain options"; **col. 2, lines 48 – 52.**

In the art of setting up a printer, which includes *installing printer drivers and configuring the printer*, it is well-known to *automatically install drivers* when a printer type is *recognized*, and to prompt a user to *manually install drivers* when the printer type is *not recognized*. In either case, it is well-known to provide user feedback through a user

interface, such as a computer display, that would indicate either the success or failure of an installation.

Therefore, in view of MOTOYAMA, O'TOOLE and well-known prior art teachings, it is believed that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to *implement a response for the above-mentioned usage scenarios* of an unrecognized device type, or unavailable configuration file (or applet), just as it would have been obvious to *implement a response indicating a successful configuration.*

In the case of a photocopying machine with an LCD panel, or a laser printer with an operator panel, it is believed that it would have also been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide feedback indicating either the success or failure of a device installation / configuration.

Therefore, when a *determination is made that the model information of the second device does not coincide with any model information stored in the storage unit*, it would have been obvious to inform the *second device* that *automatic configuration is not possible*, and subsequently, have the *second device enter into a manual configuration mode*.

Regarding claim 2, GOFFINET teaches a device configuring system comprising:

a plurality of devices of various kinds including a second device

[GOFFINET teaches "each of the printers 13, 16a, 16b, 16c, and 16d may be of the same type or of different models"; **col. 3, lines 57 – 59.**

*For the purpose of claim interpretation, printer **16a** shown in **Fig. 1** corresponds to the "second device"***];**

and an information processing apparatus [**Fig. 1,** host computer **12**] **[[in]] which is connected to the devices via a communication network** [**Fig. 1** LAN **15**],

wherein the information processing apparatus comprises:

a first acquiring unit configured to acquire from a first device [**Fig. 1** printer **13**] **both model information of the first device and identification information specific to the first device**

[GOFFINET teaches a method by which a host computer (**Fig. 1** host computer **12**) may "save the configuration information of a particular printer (e.g., printer 13)"; **col. 6, lines 47 - 48.** This is illustrated in **Fig. 4** as the "Quick Setup Save" procedure.

Within the printer controller (**Fig. 3**), the "Options Manager 37 is designed to be able to easily retrieve and store all such configuration variables for its particular model laser printer"; **col. 7, lines 5 – 7.**

Shown in **Fig. 4,** steps **102 (**Determine I.D. of Next OM Variable to be Read**)** through **110 (**At End of OM Table?**),** the Options Manager reads each OM variable shown in **Table #1** and transmits the corresponding value to the host computer where it is stored in a file.

From **Table #1,** the host computer acquires "model information" of a first device (e.g., OMMODELNAME, the model name) and "identification information" (e.g., OMSERIALNUM, the serial number);

other related "model information" could be obtained from Table #1 as well; for example, some "higher-end" models may have 3 paper input trays whereas, some "lower-end" models may just have one**];**

a configuration information acquiring unit configured to acquire from the first device configuration information of the first device

[Contained within **Table #1** are various configuration variables (i.e., "OM variables"); among these are, for example, **OMEMULATION** (default emulation),

OMPAPERSRC (default paper source), **OMOUTPUTCAP** (output drawer capacity), and **OMINPUTCAP** (input tray1 capacity)**];**

a storing unit configured to store the acquired configuration information in a status correlated with both the model information and the identification information of the first device

[Fig. 4 "depicts a flow chart of the steps that the host computer (e.g., a host 12) must undergo to create a file at its own storage media (e.g., upon its own hard disk drive) so as to save the configuration information of a particular printer"; **col. 6, lines 44 – 47; the** storing of the acquired configuration information occurs in **Fig. 4** step **112** (close file in which printer settings are stored)**];**

a second acquiring unit configured to acquire one or more data packets from the second device, the one or more data packets containing both model information of the second device and identification information specific to the second device;

a determining unit configured to determine, in automatic response to the acquiring from the second device, whether or not the model information of the first device and the model information of the second device in the one or more data packets coincide with each other;

and a transmitting unit configured to transmit, when determined that the model information of the first device and the model information of the second device coincide with each other, the stored configuration information of the first device to the second device

[GOFFINET teaches that "under normal circumstances, it is preferred that such setup or configuration information for a particular printer [i.e., the "first device"] be utilized on *other printers* [i.e., the "second device"] *having the identical model number*"; **col. 15, lines 6 – 9.**

Fig. 6 illustrates the "Quick Setup Send" host computer procedure. Once a configuration setup file has been selected (**step 140**), a selection is made as to which printers will be configured (**step 142**). **Steps 144** through **152** retrieve configuration values stored in the saved setup file and transmit each value (along with its corresponding variable identification) to a second device (i.e., a selected printer); specifically, the data packet for a "Set OM Variable" command has a format shown in **col. 15, line 29],**

and to transmit, when determined that the model information of the second device does not coincide with any model information stored in the storage unit, information that configuration information is not present,

the second device comprising a transmitting unit configured to automatically transmit the model information of the second device and identification information specific to the second device in response to the second device reaching a state in which the second device is both connected to the information processing apparatus and turned on,

wherein the second device comprises a configuring unit configured to perform, when determined that the model information of the first device and the model information of the second device coincide with each other, a configuration thereof in accordance with the transmitted configuration information

[Fig. 7 illustrates the "Set OM Variable" printer procedure. After the second device (i.e., a selected printer) receives the packet sent from the host computer, the printer controller's Options Manager reads the value of the OM variable (from the data packet) and stores it into memory; **col. 16, lines 32 – 35.**

"Configuring the second device" is achieved by storing the new OM variable values into memory**]**.

and to perform, when determined that the model information of the second device does not coincide with any model information stored in the storage unit, a configuration thereof in accordance with manual configuration.

However, GOFFINET *does not specifically teach* a first set of limitations

a second acquiring unit configured to acquire one or more data packets from the second device, the one or more data packets containing both model information of the second device and identification information specific to the second device;

a determining unit configured to determine, in automatic response to the acquiring from the second device, whether or not the model information of the first device and the model information of the second device in the one or more data packets coincide with each other;

the second device comprising a transmitting unit configured to automatically transmit the model information of the second device and identification information specific to the second device in response to the second device reaching a state in which the second device is both connected to the information processing apparatus and turned on,

Furthermore, GOFFINET *does not specifically teach* a second set of limitations

transmitting*, when determined that the model information of the second device does not coincide with any model information stored in the storage unit, information that configuration information is not present,*

and performing*, when determined that the model information of the second device does not coincide with any model information stored in the storage unit, a configuration thereof in accordance with manual configuration*.

Regarding the first set of limitations, please consider the corresponding argument made for claim 1.

Regarding the second set of limitations, please consider the corresponding argument made for claim 1.

Regarding claim 3, GOFFINET further teaches the device configuring system as claimed in claim 2,

wherein the second device further comprises a completion information transmitting unit configured to transmit, after the configuration is completed, completion information that indicates the completion of the configuration to the information processing apparatus

[After the OM configuration variable's value has been set in the second device (i.e., a selected printer; see **Fig. 7,** step **168**), a "success" printer response may be sent back to the host computer;

alternatively, a "failure response will be transmitted if the data size checking failed, or if the [oid1] and [oid2] NPA identification was not acceptable by this particular laser printer"; **col. 16, lines 62 – 65;** in the latter case, an NPA identification may be deemed not acceptable if it is "instructed to change an attribute for a feature not installed on the printer (e.g., if paper tray 3 is being set to size A4 paper, and a third paper tray is not installed …), it will ignore this Set OM Variable command"; **col. 15, lines 35 - 39].**

Regarding claim 4, GOFFINET further teaches the device configuring system as claimed in claim 2,

wherein the information processing apparatus further comprises an editing unit configured to edit the stored configuration information of the first device

[GOFFINET teaches, "a laser printer should have the capability of having its configuration information contents uploaded into a host computer, so that the host computer can store that same configuration information upon its own storage media, such as in a file residing on a hard disk drive. Once a file is created at the host computer, it will be understood that the contents of such file can either be directly downloaded to the other laser printers on the network, or that the file's contents could be *manipulated* so that individual operating characteristics of a laser printer can be *modified* by a Network Administrator"; **col. 6, lines 33 – 42],**

wherein the storing unit is further configured to store the edited configuration information

[As noted above, the stored configuration file's contents can be "*manipulated* so that individual operating characteristics of a laser printer can be *modified* by a Network Administrator, and that the file is stored in a storage media (e.g., a hard disk drive)**],**

and wherein the transmitting unit is configured to transmit the edited configuration information as [[the]] configuration information to the second device

[As noted above, the configuration file can be either *directly downloaded* (i.e., without modification) to other printers on the network, *or* first modified and then sent to other printers on the network**].**

Regarding claim 6, GOFFINET teaches a device configuring system comprising:

a plurality of devices of various kinds

[GOFFINET teaches "each of the printers 13, 16a, 16b, 16c, and 16d may be of the same type or of different models"; **col. 3, lines 57 - 59];**

and an information processing apparatus [**Fig. 1,** host computer **12**] **[[in]] which is connected to the devices via a communication network** [**Fig. 1** LAN **15**],

wherein the information processing apparatus comprises:

a first acquiring unit configured to acquire from a first device [**Fig. 1** printer **13**] **model information of the first device**

[GOFFINET teaches a method by which a host computer (**Fig. 1** host computer **12**) may "save the configuration information of a particular printer (e.g., printer 13)"; **col. 6, lines 47 - 48.** This is illustrated in **Fig. 4** as the "Quick Setup Save" procedure.

Within the printer controller (**Fig. 3**), the "Options Manager 37 is designed to be able to easily retrieve and store all such configuration variables for its particular model laser printer"; **col. 7, lines 5 – 7.**

Shown in **Fig. 4,** steps **102 (**Determine I.D. of Next OM Variable to be Read**)** through **110 (**At End of OM Table?**),** the Options Manager reads each OM variable shown in **Table #1** and transmits the corresponding value to the host computer where it is stored in a file.

From **Table #1,** the host computer acquires "model information" of a first device (e.g., OMMODELNAME, the model name) and "identification information" (e.g., OMSERIALNUM, the serial number);

other related "model information" could be obtained from Table #1 as well; for example, some "higher-end" models may have 3 paper input trays whereas, some "lower-end" models may just have one**];**

a configuration information acquiring unit configured to acquire from the first device configuration information of the first device

[Contained within **Table #1** are various configuration variables (i.e., "OM variables"); among these are, for example, **OMEMULATION** (default emulation), **OMPAPERSRC** (default paper source), **OMOUTPUTCAP** (output drawer capacity), and **OMINPUTCAP** (input tray1 capacity)**];**

a storing unit configured to store the acquired configuration information in a status correlated with the model information of the first device

[Fig. 4 "depicts a flow chart of the steps that the host computer (e.g., a host 12) must undergo to create a file at its own storage media (e.g., upon its own hard disk drive) so as to save the configuration information of a particular printer"; **col. 6, lines 44 – 47;** the storing of the acquired configuration information occurs in **Fig. 4** step **112** (close file in which printer settings are stored)**];**

and a transmitting unit configured to automatically transmit one or more data packets, the data packets containing the stored configuration information of the first device together with the correlated model information to a second device

[GOFFINET teaches that "under normal circumstances, it is preferred that such setup or configuration information for a particular printer [i.e., the "first device"] be utilized on *other printers* [i.e., the "second device"] *having the identical model number*"; **col. 15, lines 6 – 9.**

Fig. 6 illustrates the "Quick Setup Send" host computer procedure. Once a configuration setup file has been selected (**step 140**), a selection is made as to which printers will be configured (**step 142**). **Steps 144** through **152** retrieve configuration values stored in the saved setup file and transmit each value (along with its corresponding variable identification) to a second device (i.e., a selected printer); specifically, the data packet for a "Set OM Variable" command has a format shown in **col. 15, line 29]**

in response to the second device reaching a state in which the second device is both connected to the information processing apparatus and turned on,

wherein the second device [e.g., printer **16a** shown in **Fig. 1**, or another printer similar to printer **13** shown in **Fig. 1**] **comprises:**

a determining unit configured to determine, in automatic response to receiving the transmitted model information, whether or not the transmitted model information of the first device coincides with a previously stored model information thereof

[Each printer stores its configuration variables in NVRAM; **col. 13, lines 58 – 60**;

GOFFINET teaches that each printer may store its configuration variables "in different physical memory locations" (**col. 7, lines 1 - 3**) but that it is the Options Manager's task to "easily retrieve and store all such configuration variables for its particular model laser printer"; **col. 7, lines 5 – 7.**

GOFFINET teaches that the second device (i.e., a selected printer) has a "determining unit" which "determines whether or not the data is an acceptable value and whether or not the data for a particular attribute (i.e., for an OM variable) corresponds to the options and configuration" of a printer; **col. 15, lines 32 – 35.**

"Model information" *may be interpreted* as the features and installed accessories of a particular device; in this case, a printer may have up to 3 input paper trays.

However, "if a particular printer is instructed to change an attribute for a feature not installed on the printer (e.g., if paper tray 3 is being set to size A4 paper, and a third paper tray is not installed …), it will ignore this Set OM Variable command"; **col. 15, lines 35 - 39];**

and a configuring unit configured to perform a configuration thereof in accordance with the transmitted configuration information in a case ~~where determined~~ <u>when a determination is made</u> that the transmitted model information and the previously stored model information coincide <u>with</u> each other

[Fig. 7 illustrates the "Set OM Variable" printer procedure. After the second device (i.e., a selected printer) receives the packet sent from the host computer, the printer controller's Options Manager reads the value of the OM variable (from the data packet) and stores it into memory; **col. 16, lines 32 – 35.**

"Configuring the second device" is achieved by storing the new OM variable values into memory**]**<u>**.**</u>

<u>and to perform a configuration thereof in accordance with manual configuration when a determination is made that the transmitted model information does not coincide with any model information stored in the storing unit</u>.

However, GOFFINET *does not specifically teach* a first set of limitations

a transmitting unit configured to *automatically transmit* one or more data packets, the data packets containing the stored configuration information of the first device together with the correlated model information to a second device

in response to the second device reaching a state in which the second device is both connected to the information processing apparatus and turned on,

Furthermore, GOFFINET *does not specifically teach* a second set of limitations

performing *a configuration thereof in accordance with manual configuration when a determination is made that the transmitted model information does not coincide with any model information stored in the storing unit*.

Regarding the first set of limitations, GOFFINET teaches that once the model, identification and configuration information are acquired from the first device and are stored in a file (**Fig. 4** step **112**), "the file on the hard drive can be accessed and its contents sent to other printers on the LAN 15, thereby configuring such other printers very quickly and easily"; **col. 15, lines 3 – 6.**

GOFFINET teaches that one or more printers, which are to be configured by the "Quick Setup Send" procedure, are selected; **col. 15, lines 3 – 4**.

GOFFINET further teaches that the configuration information of a first device is sent to the second device in one or more *packets*. With reference to **Fig. 6**, "function block 150 … builds a packet and transmits that packet as a Set OM Variable command to the selected printer"; **col. 15, lines 24 – 26.**

However, GOFFINET does not teach *automatically transmitting one or more data packets that contain the stored configuration information of the first device together with the correlated model information to a second device in response to the second device reaching a state in which the second device is both connected to the information processing apparatus and is turned on*.

HANSEN teaches a method of automatically configuring a printing device. With reference to **Figs. 1** and **4**, HANSEN illustrates the automatic configuration of printing device **102** in which "the configuration process can be initiated by the printing device configuration module 316 of a computing device 108"; **page 3, paragraph 32, lines 3 – 6.** Although, the "printing device configuration module" **316** can be manually activated by "identifying the presence of a newly added printing device 102" [**page 3, paragraph 32, lines 8 - 11**], *in a manner similar as taught by GOFFINET*, HANSEN teaches that

the presence of a new printing device 102 "can be automatically detected by the printing device configuration module 316" [**page 3, paragraph 33, lines 1 – 3**] by periodically sending "response requests" to every device that is connected to module **316** [**page 3, paragraph 33, lines 4 - 6**]. *Alternatively, the "newly added printing device 102 can be configured to send out periodic notifications that identify its presence to other devices on the network 114, including the computing device 108*"; **page 3, paragraph 33, lines 11 – 15.**

That is, HANSEN teaches a method by which a newly added printing device (i.e., a "second device") automatically identifies its presence to the "printing device configuration module" **316** of a "computing device" **108** (i.e., an "information processing apparatus") *when the newly added device is connected to the information processing apparatus and is turned on*.

In response to this automatic identification, with reference to **Fig. 4**, HANSEN teaches that the "configuration module 316 can *automatically determine what type of device* the printing device 102 is, as indicated in block 404. *In terms of type, the module 316 can, for instance, determine whether the device is a printing device, the manufacturer of the printing device, the device model number, etc*"; **page 3, paragraph 34, lines 4 – 9.** "Alternatively, the information can be obtained by *querying the printing device 102 and receiving an appropriate response*"; **page 3, paragraph 34, lines 12 – 14.**

HANSEN teaches that once the "printing device configuration module" **316** has acquired information relating to the type of device (e.g., manufacturer, device model number, etc.), module **316** "*can determine what configuration applet 318 is to be downloaded to the printing device 102*"; **page 3, paragraph 35, lines 1 – 3.**

That is, HANSEN teaches *automatically transmitting one or more data packets that are used to configure a second device in response to the second device reaching a state in which the second device is both connected to the information processing apparatus and is turned on.*

As noted, GOFFINET teaches transmitting one or more data packets that contain the *stored configuration information* of the first device to the second device by *selecting one or more printers*.

HANSEN teaches an *alternative method of automatically selecting a printer* by detecting its presence when it is connected to the "computing device" **108** (i.e., the "information processing apparatus").

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of HANSEN with those of GOFFINET and configure the second device by automatically transmitting the *stored configuration information* of the first device to the second device *in response to the second device*

reaching a state in which the second device is both connected to the information processing apparatus and is turned on.

The benefits of such automatic configuration would include both a reduction in configuration time and the elimination of potential errors that could be incurred by manually configuring a second device.

Regarding the second set of limitations, please consider the argument made for claim 1.

As for claim 7, GOFFINET teaches a device configuring system comprising an information processing apparatus for configuring a plurality of devices of various kinds that are connected thereto via a communication network, and a second device [*e.g., printer **16a** shown in **Fig. 1***], the information processing apparatus comprising:

> **a first acquiring unit configured to acquire from a first device** [**Fig. 1** printer **13**] **both model information of the first device and identification information specific to the first device**
>
> **[**GOFFINET teaches a method by which a host computer (**Fig. 1** host computer **12**) may "save the configuration information of a particular printer (e.g., printer 13)"; **col. 6, lines 47 - 48.** This is illustrated in **Fig. 4** as the "Quick Setup Save" procedure.

Within the printer controller (**Fig. 3**), the "Options Manager 37 is designed to be able to easily retrieve and store all such configuration variables for its particular model laser printer"; **col. 7, lines 5 – 7.**

Shown in **Fig. 4,** steps **102 (**Determine I.D. of Next OM Variable to be Read**)** through **110 (**At End of OM Table?**),** the Options Manager reads each OM variable shown in **Table #1** and transmits the corresponding value to the host computer where it is stored in a file.

From **Table #1,** the host computer acquires "model information" of a first device (e.g., OMMODELNAME, the model name) and "identification information" (e.g., OMSERIALNUM, the serial number);

other related "model information" could be obtained from Table #1 as well; for example, some "higher-end" models may have 3 paper input trays whereas, some "lower-end" models may just have one**];**

a configuration information acquiring unit configured to acquire from the first device configuration information of the first device

[Contained within **Table #1** are various configuration variables (i.e., "OM variables"); among these are, for example, **OMEMULATION** (default emulation),

OMPAPERSRC (default paper source), **OMOUTPUTCAP** (output drawer capacity), and **OMINPUTCAP** (input tray1 capacity)**];**

a storing unit configured to store the acquired configuration information in a status correlated with both the model information and the identification information of the first device

[Fig. 4 "depicts a flow chart of the steps that the host computer (e.g., a host 12) must undergo to create a file at its own storage media (e.g., upon its own hard disk drive) so as to save the configuration information of a particular printer"; **col. 6, lines 44 – 47;** the storing of the acquired configuration information occurs in **Fig. 4** step **112** (close file in which printer settings are stored)**];**

a second acquiring unit configured to acquire one or more data packets from the second device, the one or more data packets containing both model information of the second device and identification information specific to the second device;

a determining unit configured to determine, in automatic response to the acquiring from the second device, whether or not the model information of the first device and the model information of the second device in the one or more data packets coincide with each other;

and a transmitting unit configured to transmit, when determined that the model information of the first device and the model information of the second device coincide with each other, the stored configuration information of the first device to the second device

[GOFFINET teaches that "under normal circumstances, it is preferred that such setup or configuration information for a particular printer [i.e., the "first device"] be utilized on *other printers* [i.e., the "second device"] *having the identical model number*"; **col. 15, lines 6 – 9.**

Fig. 6 illustrates the "Quick Setup Send" host computer procedure. Once a configuration setup file has been selected (**step 140**), a selection is made as to which printers will be configured (**step 142**). **Steps 144** through **152** retrieve configuration values stored in the saved setup file and transmit each value (along with its corresponding variable identification) to a second device (i.e., a selected printer); specifically, the data packet for a "Set OM Variable" command has a format shown in **col. 15, line 29],**

and to transmit, when determined that the model information of the second device does not coincide with any model information stored in the storing unit, information that configuration information is not present,

and the second device comprising:

a transmitting unit configured to automatically transmit the model information of the second device and identification information specific to the second device in response to the second device reaching a state in which the second device is both connected to the information processing apparatus and turned on,

wherein the second device enters a manual configuration mode when a determination is made that the model information of the second device does not coincide with any model information stored in the storing unit.

However, GOFFINET *does not specifically teach* a first set of limitations

a second acquiring unit configured to acquire one or more data packets from the second device, the one or more data packets containing both model information of the second device and identification information specific to the second device;

a determining unit configured to determine, in automatic response to the acquiring from the second device, whether or not the model information of the first device and the model information of the second device in the one or more data packets coincide with each other;

and the second device comprising:

a transmitting unit configured to automatically transmit the model information of the second device and identification information specific to the second device in response to the second device reaching a state in which the second device is both connected to the information processing apparatus and turned on.

Furthermore, GOFFINET *does not specifically teach* a second set of limitations

transmitting*, when determined that the model information of the second device does not coincide with any model information stored in the storing unit, information that configuration information is not present,*

wherein the second device enters a manual configuration mode when a determination is made that the model information of the second device does not coincide with any model information stored in the storing unit.

Regarding the first set of limitations, please consider the corresponding argument made for claim 1.

Regarding the second set of limitations, please consider the corresponding argument made for claim 1.

As for claim 8, GOFFINET teaches a computer readable medium storing a program causing a computer system to execute a process for configuring a plurality of devices of various kinds that are connected thereto via a communication network, the process comprising:

> **acquiring, from a first device** [**Fig. 1** printer **13**]**, model information of the first device, identification information specific to the first device** **[**GOFFINET teaches a method by which a host computer (**Fig. 1** host computer **12**) may "save the configuration information of a particular printer (e.g., printer 13)"; **col. 6, lines 47 - 48.** This is illustrated in **Fig. 4** as the "Quick Setup Save" procedure.
>
> Within the printer controller (**Fig. 3**), the "Options Manager 37 is designed to be able to easily retrieve and store all such configuration variables for its particular model laser printer"; **col. 7, lines 5 – 7.**
>
> Shown in **Fig. 4,** steps **102 (**Determine I.D. of Next OM Variable to be Read**)** through **110 (**At End of OM Table?**),** the Options Manager reads each OM variable shown in **Table #1** and transmits the corresponding value to the host computer where it is stored in a file.

From **Table #1,** the host computer acquires "model information" of a first device (e.g., OMMODELNAME, the model name) and "identification information" (e.g., OMSERIALNUM, the serial number);

other related "model information" could be obtained from Table #1 as well; for example, some "higher-end" models may have 3 paper input trays whereas, some "lower-end" models may just have one**],**

and configuration information of the first device

[Contained within **Table #1** are various configuration variables (i.e., "OM variables"); among these are, for example, **OMEMULATION** (default emulation), **OMPAPERSRC** (default paper source), **OMOUTPUTCAP** (output drawer capacity), and **OMINPUTCAP** (input tray1 capacity)**;**

storing <u>in a storing unit</u> the acquired configuration information in a status correlated with both the model information and the identification information of the first device

[Fig. 4 "depicts a flow chart of the steps that the host computer (e.g., a host 12) must undergo to create a file at its own storage media (e.g., upon its own hard disk drive) so as to save the configuration information of a particular printer"; **col. 6, lines 44 – 47;** the storing of the acquired configuration information occurs in **Fig. 4** step **112** (close file in which printer settings are stored)**];**

acquiring one or more data packets from a second device, the one or more data packets containing both model information of the second device and identification information specific to the second device,

the acquiring from the second device occurring automatically in response to the second device reaching a state in which the second device is both connected to the information processing apparatus and turned on;

automatically causing, in response to the acquiring from the second device, the information processing apparatus or the second device to determine whether or not the model information of the first device and the model information of the second device in the one or more data packets coincide with each other;

and transmitting, when determined that the model information of the first device and the model information of the second device coincide with each other, the stored configuration information of the first device to the second device

[GOFFINET teaches that "under normal circumstances, it is preferred that such setup or configuration information for a particular printer [i.e., the "first device"] be

utilized on *other printers* [i.e., the "second device"] *having the identical model number*"; **col. 15, lines 6 – 9.**

Fig. 6 illustrates the "Quick Setup Send" host computer procedure. Once a configuration setup file has been selected (**step 140**), a selection is made as to which printers will be configured (**step 142**). **Steps 144** through **152** retrieve configuration values stored in the saved setup file and transmit each value (along with its corresponding variable identification) to a second device (i.e., a selected printer); specifically, the data packet for a "Set OM Variable" command has a format shown in **col. 15, line 29]**,

and transmitting, when determined that the model information of the second device does not coincide with any model information stored in the storing unit, information that configuration information is not present, after which the second device enters a manual configuration mode.

However, GOFFINET *does not specifically teach* a first set of limitations

acquiring one or more data packets from a second device, the one or more data packets containing both model information of the second device and identification information specific to the second device,

the acquiring from the second device occurring automatically in response to the second device reaching a state in which the second device is both connected to the information processing apparatus and turned on;

automatically causing, in response to the acquiring from the second device, the information processing apparatus or the second device to determine whether or not the model information of the first device and the model information of the second device in the one or more data packets coincide with each other;

However, GOFFINET *does not specifically teach* a first set of limitations

and transmitting, when determined that the model information of the second device does not coincide with any model information stored in the storing unit, information that configuration information is not present, after which the second device enters a manual configuration mode.

Regarding the first set of limitations, please consider the corresponding argument made for claim 1.

Regarding the second set of limitations, please consider the corresponding argument made for claim 1.

12. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **GOFFINET [US Patent 5,905,906]** in view of **HANSEN [US Patent Application 2003/0090704 A1]** and **TATEYAMA [US Patent 6,425,019 B1]**.

Regarding claim 5, neither GOFFINET nor HANSEN specifically teach the device configuring system as claimed in claim 2,

> **wherein the identification information specific to the first device comprises [[an]] a MAC address of the first device,**
>
> **and the identification information specific to the second device comprises a MAC address of the second device.**

TATEYAMA teaches a data communications method among various types of devices which may include computers, printers, and storage devices; **col. 5, lines 62 – col. 6, line 3.** TATEYAMA further teaches the identifier (ID) unique to each device "may be a network address such as an Internet Protocol (IP) address or a Media Access Control (MAC) address"; **col. 22, lines 40 – 42.**

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of TATEYAMA with those of GOFFINET and HANSEN to use a network device's MAC address as identification since network devices are assigned *unique* and specific MAC addresses at the time of manufacture.

Response to Arguments

13. Applicant's arguments filed **3/9/2009** have been fully considered but they are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection necessitated by the amended claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter L. Cheng whose telephone number is 571-270-3007. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY - FRIDAY, 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, King Y. Poon can be reached on 571-272-7440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/King Y. Poon/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/plc/
April 12, 2009